

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2005

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**42 more projects to protect and restore state's natural resources**

## **State Parks Nearing Completion of Five Year, \$9 Million Ecosystem Restoration Program**

SACRAMENTO – California State Parks is preparing to implement 42 additional projects to protect and restore some of the most significant natural resources in the State Park System. This will bring to more than 140, the number of ecosystem restoration projects the Department will have completed over a five year period with funding from Proposition 12, the Park Bond Act of 2000. Another ten projects are scheduled for next year, the final year of in the program, bringing the total to more than \$9 million spent over six years on more than 150 projects

“This is one of the largest natural resource restoration efforts in our history,” said Rick Rayburn, Chief of the Natural Resources Division of State Parks. “What we are doing is insuring that our State’s wildlife and our wonderful forests and wetlands are given the care they need to survive and flourish into the next century. Our citizens truly love the spectacular outdoor places within our parks and we at State Parks are charged with protecting them.”

This effort is part of the Department’s Natural Heritage Stewardship Program. The 42 projects about to start, for which \$1.7 million is being allocated, range from the North Coast dune and forests to the deserts and coastal wetlands of Southern California.

The large number of projects is geared toward assisting important wildlife species that are threatened with extinction and restoring natural areas that have suffered from decades of deterioration or damage from invasive plant species. For instance, restoration projects are planned for riparian and wetland area, coastal and dune areas, and forests. In addition, invasive plant species that cause environmental damage will be controlled and projects to benefit wildlife, like the endangered bighorn sheep, will be undertaken.

California is world renowned for its biological diversity and its unique plant and animal assemblages. California State Parks preserve much of the best remaining examples of natural California. This year’s projects demonstrate the diversity and importance of the department’s natural resource management program in perpetuating California State Parks’ natural values.

The 42 projects scheduled for this year include the following:

### **Coastal Habitat Restoration**

The department will have several coastal habitat restoration projects scattered along the entire length of California's coastline. Dune habitat restoration will occur in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park (Del Norte and Humboldt counties), MacKerricher State Park (Mendocino County), and Sunset State Beach (Santa Cruz County). Coastal sage scrub and coastal scrub communities will be restored in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park (Monterey County), Crystal Cove State Park (Orange County), and Torrey Pines State Reserve (San Diego County).

### **Riparian, Wetland, and Stream Restoration**

The department will implement a number of projects to restore riparian, wetland, and stream habitats. Riparian areas will be restored in Caswell Memorial State Park (San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties) and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (San Diego/Riverside/Imperial counties). Stream restoration projects will occur in Plumas-Eureka State Park (Plumas County), Mount Diablo State Park (Contra Costa County), and Año Nuevo State Reserve (San Mateo County). Other projects will be conducted in Henry W. Coe State Park (Santa Clara and Stanislaus counties), Pescadero State Beach (San Mateo County), and Mount San Jacinto State Park (Riverside County).

### **Forest Management and Restoration**

The department will continue to manage forests, particularly forest fuel conditions, to restore and maintain natural conditions and prevent catastrophic wildfires. These projects will occur in Humboldt Redwoods State Park (Humboldt County), Calaveras Big Trees State Park (Calaveras and Tuolumne counties), Mount San Jacinto State Park (Riverside County), and Palomar Mountain State Park (San Diego County).

### **Wildland Habitat Restoration – Exotic Plant Control**

Invasive exotic plants will be controlled in several park natural areas. Projects to improve these areas will target Himalayan blackberry in Castle Crags State Park (Shasta County), arundo in Auburn State Recreation Area (Placer and El Dorado counties), periwinkle in Big Basin Redwoods State Park (Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties), perennial pepperweed in Great Valley Grasslands State Park (Merced County), non-native thistles in Chino Hills State Park (Orange/Riverside/San Bernardino counties), and veldt grass in Torrey Pines State Reserve (San Diego County). A suite of exotics (including iceplant, cape ivy, broom, and others) will be eradicated simultaneously in Point Lobos State Reserve (Monterey County), Gaviota State Park (Santa Barbara County), San Buenaventura State Beach (Ventura County), and Trestles Wetland Natural Preserve (San Diego County).

### **Threatened and Endangered Species Management**

The department will implement a number of projects to manage and protect threatened and endangered species. A project for peninsular bighorn sheep recovery and management will occur in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (San Diego/Riverside/Imperial counties). Western snowy plover and California least tern will be protected at many beaches in Mendocino County (MacKerricher and Manchester State Parks), San Mateo County (Half Moon Bay State Beach),

Monterey County (Monterey, Marina, Salinas River, Moss Landing, and Zmudowski State Beaches), San Luis Obispo County (Moñtana de Oro State Park, Morro Strand State Beach, Estero Bluffs, San Simeon State Park, and Hearst Property), Santa Barbara County (Carpinteria State Beach), and Ventura County (McGrath and San Buenaventura State Beaches).

**Landform Restoration**

The department will implement two projects to restore natural landforms in Point Mugu State Park (Ventura County) and Sonoma Coast State Beach (Sonoma County). These projects will remove old, unused dirt roads that are causing erosion and sedimentation of aquatic systems, restoring them to natural conditions. Visit California State Parks on-line at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

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